

UNCLASSIFIED

LeBaron, Richard B (London)

From: Allegrone, Kathleen H
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 12:42 PM
To: Fried, Daniel; LeBaron, Richard B (London); Bellinger, John B(Legal); Volker, Kurt D
Subject: RE: Downing Street on Rendition Issue

R 356

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

W. Post carried it as a straight story on this inside pages. k

From: Fried, Daniel
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 6:40 AM
To: LeBaron, Richard B (London); Bellinger, John B(Legal); Volker, Kurt D; Allegrone, Kathleen H
Subject: RE: Downing Street on Rendition Issue

I suppose having a bunch of embassies burnt in Belgrade also helped.

From: LeBaron, Richard B (London)
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 6:26 AM
To: Bellinger, John B(Legal); Fried, Daniel; Volker, Kurt D; Allegrone, Kathleen H
Subject: Downing Street on Rendition Issue

B1

UK media covered the story but for the most part didn't have it on the front pages. I believe only the International Herald Tribune had a significant story on the front page. Radio Four Today Program had it well down in its list of stories. John's work with the press yesterday clearly helped, as did competing news about conviction of a multiple murderer.

RL

LeBaron, Richard B (London)

From: Fried, Daniel
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 11:40 AM
To: LeBaron, Richard B (London); Bellinger, John B(Legal); Volker, Kurt D; Allegrone, Kathleen H
Subject: RE: Downing Street on Rendition Issue

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. HEDGBETH, DAS, A/ISS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 21 FEB 2023
DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2008 200706444

I suppose having a bunch of embassies burnt in Belgrade also helped.

From: LeBaron, Richard B (London)
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 6:26 AM
To: Bellinger, John B(Legal); Fried, Daniel; Volker, Kurt D; Allegrone, Kathleen H
Subject: Downing Street on Rendition Issue

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UK media covered the story but for the most part didn't have it on the front pages. I believe only the International Herald Tribune had a significant story on the front page. Radio Four Today Program had it well down in its list of stories. John's work with the press yesterday clearly helped, as did competing news about conviction of a multiple murderer.

RL

LeBaron, Richard B (London)

From: Parvin, Claire (London)
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 9:13 AM
To: Armstrong, Bruce W; Ball, Susan M; Brussels EUR_Hubs_Group; BRUSSELS, RRU(Brussels); Clinard, Meghan R (London); Custin, Dick R (London); Early Alert; Gianfranceschi, Robert E; Goshko, Matt E (London); Hartnoll, David J (London); Laura Oppen (lauraoppen@yahoo.com); LeBaron, Richard B (London); Malik, Ghazala (London); Oppenheimer, Laura E; Panteloukas, Joanna (London); Parvin, Claire (London); Poisson, Beth L (London); RRU-EU; Strike, Andrew P. (PACE)(PA/PR/FPC); Sydney, Carey N (London); Walkley, Barrie R (London); Wierichs, F. Joe
Subject: London Early Alert Report, Friday, February 22
Attachments: guardian.jpg; telegraph.jpg; times.jpg

RENDITION FLIGHTS

With John Bellinger in London yesterday we were able to get the US message across that "the error came to light after a new and even more exhaustive search carried out in response to continuing allegations that Diego Garcia had been used for such flights" in interviews with BBC "Newsnight" with clips available for the other BBC tv channels, BBC Radio 4 "PM Program", BBC World Service "Newshour", BBC Radio News Bulletins and a print press-roundtable for all the broadsheets and wire services. The story was headline news from lunchtime throughout most of the day, but by the evening had dropped down in the running order. Bellinger's remarks appeared in **The Guardian**, **The Times** and **Associated Press** today.

The Times headline "US Aircraft did use British base to transport terrorist suspects"... "Gordon Brown made little attempt to hide his irritation telling reporters of his disappointment at the "very serious issue". The Foreign Editor Richard Beeston comments "It confirms what many had long suspected - that when America needs Diego Garcia it will use the facility with little regard to the British officials or their rules. The editorial has the headline: "Extraordinary Omission. The United States has needlessly embarrassed the Government over rendition". "...While Condoleezza Rice has apologized for the inaccuracies of previous records and accounts it is less clear what the US authorities intend to do to ensure that other allies are not exposed to the charge of providing inaccurate statements to parliaments and to citizens".

The Guardian, in a full page spread reports that: "In an apology to the Commons, David Miliband, the foreign secretary, told MPs that contrary to "earlier explicit assurances" two flights landed at Diego Garcia, the British Indian Ocean territory where the US has a large air base, in 2002. He said the flights had been mistakenly overlooked in previous US internal inquiries carried out at the UK's behest. A senior American official said the renditions had come to light only when CIA flight crews were interviewed directly. John Bellinger, chief legal adviser in the US state department, said CIA officials were now "as confident as they can be" that no other detainees had been flown through Britain on secret rendition flights over the past six years of America's "war on terror". Bellinger, who was in the Commons yesterday to hear the foreign secretary's statement, said the Bush administration had not informed Britain at the time because it was not legally obliged to. He promised there would no future rendition flights without UK approval, and said there were no such requests pending."

The Telegraph also with a full page article reports: "David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, apologized to MPs after it emerged that two US "rendition" flights had refueled at a British air base on Diego Garcia, in the south Indian Ocean. America has used the flights to transport terrorist suspects before interrogation. By taking them to third-party countries, the US security services can bypass laws that forbid torture in most countries. Mr. Miliband has ordered officials to compile a list of all flights which the Foreign Office has been alerted to

UNCLASSIFIED

regarding possible rendition. He will then ask for assurances from America that none were used for that purpose. Mr. Miliband said Condoleezza Rice, the US secretary of state, shared his "deep regret" that the information had only recently come to light. She assured him there will be no rendition through British airspace or on its territories without express government permission."

The Independent's headline: "Official apology after CIA 'torture' jets used UK base". An opinion piece by "Liberty" director Shami Chakrabarti has the headline: "The excuse that America didn't tell us doesn't wash". "...so here we are, tainted by this ugly practice. It is easy to feel smug and superior about the Bush administration and, yes, its use of kidnap and torture is reprehensible in the extreme. The "they didn't tell us" excuse doesn't wash."

CARTOONS



guardian.jpg (56 KB)



telegraph.jpg (62 KB)



times.jpg (8 KB)

KOSOVO/SERBIA

The setting on fire of the US Embassy in Belgrade makes headline news in most of the broadcast media this morning. **BBC On-Line** reports: "Storm over Serbia embassy attacks". "Attacks by Serbian protesters against embassies in Belgrade have drawn strong criticism from the US and the UN. In the worst incident, Serbs angered by Western support for Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence set fire to parts of the US embassy. An unidentified charred body was found inside. The US denounced the "thugs" who carried out the attack, which the UN condemned "in the strongest terms". The violence followed a peaceful rally against Kosovo's secession. Most Serbs regard the former Serb province as their religious and cultural heartland. Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica delivered an impassioned speech... "White House spokesman Dana Perino said the embassy had been "attacked by thugs" and that Serbian police had not done enough to stop them. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the US had warned Mr. Kostunica and his foreign minister that it would hold them personally responsible for further damage. Mr. McCormack added that the protesters had entered the chancellery but had not breached the embassy's secure area. In New York, the UN Security Council condemned what it called "mob attacks" on US and other embassies in Belgrade. In a unanimous statement, the council recalled the inviolability of diplomatic missions under international."

The Guardian reports: "Furious Serbs protesting at western support for Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence set fire to the American embassy in Belgrade last night, as hundreds of thousands of demonstrators converged on the Serbian capital. The attack on the embassy came after hundreds of protesters, watched passively by police, peeled away from the main rally to invade the building in the centre of the capital, using sticks and metal bars. The rally was the largest since demonstrators filled the streets in 1999 to protest at Nato bombing and stormed the parliament building in October 2000 to oust the nationalist autocrat Slobodan Milosevic. The rally came after the government ordered Serbian schools closed for the day and the state rail company made free trains available to bring protesters to the capital. Organizers say the rally was intended to demonstrate Serbia's commitment to holding on to the former province of two million people, where ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs by nine to one."

The Telegraph reports: "...images of an American embassy in flames in a European country will provoke fury in Washington and stoke tensions between the US and Serbia. Sean McCormack, the US State Department spokesman, said that while the embassy had been empty, security officials and US marines were in a different part of the mission's compound. The ambassador was at his residence and in touch with Washington. The seething crowds cheered as Mr. Kostunica thanked Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, for Moscow's support. electronic signs displaying the message "Kosovo is Serbia" were flashed up in Russian, as well as in Spanish - a reference to Spain's refusal to recognize the new state amid its own fears about Catalonia and the Basque country's aspirations for nationhood. he hardline nationalist Tomislav Nikolic, who narrowly lost Serbia's

UNCLASSIFIED

presidential election to the moderate Boris Tadic earlier this month, compared the struggle over Kosovo to the Second World War."

The Independent reports: "US Embassy is set on fire as thousands march against Kosovo". "...Washington warned Serb leaders that America held them personally responsible for the safety and well-being of its embassy staff. Sean McCormack said the Under-Secretary of State Nicholas Burns had telephoned the Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and 'noted that the security that was provided was completely inadequate to the task"

SPY SATELLITE

The Telegraph reports: "The US originally said the only aim of the mission was to destroy the satellite, which was falling to Earth out of control and whose fuel could have posed a hazard. However Robert Gates, the defense secretary, last night acknowledged that the technology used in the mission proved that America's missile defense shield worked. The missile deployed, an SM3, was designed to hit other missiles as part of the shield. The deployment of the system is hotly opposed by Russia, which is suspicious of US intentions. China and Russia both criticized the action, believing that it was intended simply as a demonstration of America's military might. Beijing suspects it was a warning response to China's destruction of an old weather satellite with a missile in January 2007."

The Independent reports: "Pentagon hits bullseye on spy satellite" - "But few - and least of all China and Russia - take at face value the explanation that the satellite was brought down simply because it was a health hazard. As far as Moscow and Beijing are concerned, the real purpose was to test a key component of the Bush administration's missile defense system...But for US officials however, such concerns are vastly overblown... "Whatever the truth, the episode is bound to heighten fears that an arms race in space, targeting the communications and spy satellites now so vital for military operations, is unofficially under way." The editorial has the headline: "The alarming spectre of a new arms race". "...the US has conducted a series of experiments in which missiles have been launched to intercept other missiles, with varying degrees of success. That the latest target was a satellite rather than another missile has led to some to argue that it was merely a repetition of a test the US conducted in the 1980s, rather than anything new or more threatening. There are, however, several key differences".

PAKISTAN

The Guardian reports: "Pakistan's two largest opposition parties pledged to form a coalition government last night, stepping up pressure on President Pervez Musharraf to resign. After meeting in Islamabad for the first time since Monday's general election, Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif said they would come together in the national and provincial assemblies. The show of unity is part of a complicated power game to determine the shape of the next government. Their main obstacle is Musharraf. The US is striving to keep Musharraf in power. The State Department has publicly urged the opposition to work with the retired general." **The Telegraph** reports: "The leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of the assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) led by Nawaz Sharif made the announcement after meeting in the capital Islamabad. The move brings the opposition closer to the two thirds majority they would need to seek Mr. Musharraf's impeachment, leaving him in the most precarious position since he seized power in a 1999 coup. The joint statement was couched in cautious terms and did not specify whether they would push for Mr. Musharraf's ousting. However, Mr. Sharif repeated his demand for Mr. Musharraf to respect the "verdict of the people". Mr. Zardari reiterated that he would not bring Mr. Musharraf's main political allies into a national government."

INDIA

The Guardian reports: "The US secretary of defence, Robert Gates, arrives in the Indian capital, New Delhi, next week to promote a \$10bn jet fighter contract, underlining the country's emergence as one of the world's

UNCLASSIFIED

biggest military markets. To update its Soviet-era arsenal India says it will need to spend \$45bn in the next five years, and it has been courted by western states that are barred by arms embargoes from selling to China, the other expanding Asian military power. The arms deals and new strategic relationship with the US have mollified Washington, which had been angered by the Indian government's failure to push ahead with a nuclear deal that President George Bush had called "historic". Under the accord India could import nuclear fuel and reactors despite having tested nuclear weapons but not signed the non-proliferation treaty. However, the deal has been kept on ice after opposition from the government's communist allies."

Claire Parvin
Media Specialist
American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London W1A 1AE
TEL: 44 20 7894 0697
Mobile: 07515 314991
E-MAIL: parvincx@state.gov
This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958